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IN THIS ISSUE

- Editorial.
- The provisional agenda for UNCTAD IX.
- Mr. Fortin, Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD, addresses the World Summit for Social Development.
- Development strategy in East Asian newly industrializing economies: The experience of post-war Japan, 1953-1973.
- Recent developments in UNCTAD's activities in maritime transport and related services.
- Reviews: The role of wage stickiness in economic growth; How did East Asia grow so fast? The role of the firm in the innovation process; International Monetary and Financial Issues for the 1990s; The Least Developed Countries 1995 Report; Transnational Corporations; Expansion of trading opportunities to the year 2000 for Asia-Pacific developing countries; The tradability of banking services - Impact and implications.
- Notes: Experts discuss ways of internalizing environmental costs; Forum on the results of the Uruguay Round and the promotion of South-South trade; Africa after the Uruguay Round; Meeting on restrictive business practices; UNCTAD seminar on privatization and public enterprise reform; Forum on the responsibility and liabilities of accountants and auditors; Meeting on fiscal policy reforms in least developed countries; Round table for Afro-Arab enterprises; TRAINFORTRADE Seminars; Conference on Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises; Seminar on implications of the Uruguay Round; Ad Hoc Working Group on the Role of Enterprises in Development; Expert Group on Trade Diversification in the Least Developed Countries; Expert meeting to explore ways of promoting technology partnerships.
- Recent UNCTAD publications.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

EDITORIAL

The agenda for UNCTAD IX: response to the needs of the future

The Trade and Development Board has approved the provisional agenda for the ninth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held in the spring of 1996 (see p. 2). This consensus demonstrates the willingness of member States to refocus UNCTAD's work to meet the challenges of a changing world economy and address the implications for the development *problématique* of the new context. The theme of the Conference characterizes the world economy as marked increasingly by the twin processes of *globalization* and *liberalization*.

Under item 1 of the provisional agenda, the Conference will undertake an assessment of trends in the world economy and their implications for development in order to explore broad policies and strategies. An earlier issue of the ***Bulletin*** (No. 29) had identified globalization and liberalization as the two main trends in the world economy and forces that would lead to intensified international competition, while the market structure becomes more concentrated. While offering new opportunities for growth and development, globalization and liberalization also imply increased risks of instability in various international markets. Inherent in such risks is the danger of marginalization of weaker economies and social exclusion of the poorer populations within them: "globalization is not globalized", i.e. not all countries are equal participants in the global economic system.

In addition to the analysis of these questions, the Conference will also examine other new and emerging issues in order to gauge the implications of the dominant trends not simply for trade but, more importantly, for development and growth.

General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), in establishing UNCTAD, also identifies one of this body's main objectives as being to "accelerate the economic growth of the developing countries". From the start, for UNCTAD trade was a means to development, not an end in itself. In this context, under topic 2 of the provisional agenda, reference is made to the promotion of international trade "as an instrument for development".

This distinguishes UNCTAD from other international forums dealing with international trade, notably the World Trade Organization (WTO). The main objective of the various Rounds, including the latest Uruguay Round, held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), was to liberalize international trade. The primary function of the GATT was to provide a framework for the assumption of contractual obligations in international trade and for ensuring their implementation through the dispute settlement mechanism. The creation of WTO has not changed the nature of the GATT. What is new is the extension of the coverage of issues dealt with by this body. GATT had essentially addressed trade in manufactures. WTO's functions will cover not only agricultural products but also services and some (trade-related) aspects of investment and intellectual property rights.

UNCTAD, with as its main objectives the acceleration of the development of developing countries and reduction of imbalances and inequalities in the world economy, has a function that is not limited only to resolving trade issues. It also covers areas such as finance, commodities, investment, technology, and services, including transport; within this context, it also deals with specific questions related to economic cooperation among developing countries and the special problems of least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, etc. While other international organizations also take up some of these aspects from time to time, UNCTAD is the only one which treats development issues in an integrated manner, addressing both interdependence of sectors and that of regions and countries, and exploring the interaction of internal and external factors affecting the development process. These aspects are duly reflected in the provisional agenda, particularly under topics 1 and 2.

Topic 3, promoting enterprise development and competitiveness, will build on the exploratory work of a Working Group that was established to study the *active and strategic* role of firms in international competitiveness and development. The role of enterprises in economic development had not been well understood or appreciated by international organizations, possibly because traditional economic analyses failed to capture the dynamic

(continued on page 4)

THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR UNCTAD IX[1]

In early 1995, the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD initiated informal consultations with the member States in order to provide a framework for discussion on the agenda of the ninth Conference, to be held in the spring of 1996. In the course of these consultations, the general focus of the policy thinking and concerns of States Members of UNCTAD was crystallized, enabling the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its forty-second session to draw up a draft provisional agenda for UNCTAD IX.

It is recalled that in the Declaration adopted in 1994 on the occasion of the Thirtieth Anniversary of UNCTAD (see ***Bulletin*** No. 27/28), the Board, reiterating the primary development objectives of UNCTAD, identified the intensification of the process of globalization of economic activity as offering development opportunities but also presenting challenges to countries at both the national and international levels. The international community was called upon to take appropriate action in support of weaker economies, which risked being further marginalized in this process. The Board thus called for a fresh vision of development so as to deal with these challenges, which requires that an integrated approach be taken to issues in the fields of trade, finance, investment, services, technology and environment. These considerations are reflected in the provisional agenda for UNCTAD IX.

The provisional agenda is predicated on two closely linked but distinct processes characterizing the world economy - economic globalization and liberalization - in recognition that the challenge before the international community is that of maximizing the developmental thrust of these processes while minimizing the risks of marginalization and instability.

A novel and innovative feature is the adoption of agreed substantive annotations to the provisional agenda, which provide the Conference with a unifying conceptual framework for its deliberations as well as policy guidance on the specific issues which it is expected to address under each topic. The full text of the agenda and its agreed annotations are reproduced below.

PROMOTING GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN A GLOBALIZING AND LIBERALIZING WORLD ECONOMY

Meeting the challenge of maximizing the developmental impact of globalization and liberalization, while minimizing the risks of marginalization and instability. Towards this end, the Conference will deal with the following topics:

1. **Development policies and strategies in an increasingly interdependent world economy in the 1990s and beyond:**
   - **(a) Assessment of the development *problématique* in the current context**
   - **(b) Policies and strategies for the future**
2. **Promoting international trade as an instrument for development in the post-Uruguay Round world**
3. **Promoting enterprise development and competitiveness in developing countries and countries in transition**
4. **Future work of UNCTAD in accordance with its mandate; institutional implications.**

AGREED ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR UNCTAD IX

Against the background of an assessment of trends in the world economy, in particular those related to the processes of globalization and liberalization, the Conference will consider national and international policy approaches and measures for promoting growth and sustainable development.

Topic 1(a)

The Conference will make an assessment of the fundamental trends in the international economic system, notably the growing and deepening interdependence among countries and sectors of the economy, in the light of their consequences for the development process. The Conference will examine in particular the opportunities for growth and development offered by the processes of globalization and liberalization in interlinked areas of trade, technology, money and finance, investment, services, commodities and environment, as well as the risks and potentially negative consequences that might be involved in these processes. The Conference could also examine the new and emerging issues within its competence, in the perspective of their implications for trade and development.

Topic 1(b)

The Conference will consider relevant national and international policies and strategies which are needed to enable developing countries to take full advantage of the opportunities for growth and development offered by the new global context while minimizing the risks of new imbalances and instabilities, including in international financial markets, and the potential marginalization of the least developed countries and other weaker economies. In this context, the Conference will take into consideration the relevant problems of interested economies in transition. The Conference would also consider appropriate international support measures for enabling the least developed countries to participate more effectively

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[1] *The Agenda also includes an annex on background to the provisional agenda; the full text of the Agenda (Doc. TD/B/41(2) L.4/Rev.1) is available upon request, through the Editor.*

in the globalization and liberalization processes, while taking into account the outcome of the Mid-term Global Review on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in the 1990s. Similar measures could also be considered for low-income countries and other structurally weaker economies such as those in Africa, with the aim of improving economic conditions through raising income levels and export earnings.

In this connection, the objective should be to build consensus on the elements of development cooperation and appropriate development policy approaches and strategies, both at relevant national and international levels, required for the future. In that context, the Conference should also pay attention, *inter alia*, to issues related to the problems of unemployment, poverty alleviation and sustainable development; policies to expand and consolidate progress in access to markets; the role of government as well as the public and private sectors in the development process; resource flows and external debt. The Conference would also address new approaches to South-South economic cooperation, as well as the role and potential impact on development of regional economic groupings in the globalizing and liberalizing world economy.

Topic 2

The Conference should focus on the consideration of concrete policies, measures and actions, both at relevant national and international levels, needed to promote the integration of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the international trading system. The Conference would consider relevant national and international measures to facilitate the integration of interested economies in transition into the international trading system. In particular, the Conference should cover the following areas: the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on development; measures to assist developing countries to benefit fully from trading opportunities arising from the Round while making proposals for translating into concrete action the commitments made at the Ministerial Meeting in Marrakesh regarding the least developed countries and net food-importing countries; promoting complementarity between UNCTAD and WTO with a view to addressing trade-related development concerns of the developing countries; the evolution of the generalized system of preferences; measures for capacity-building in trade efficiency, including access to information technologies; the implications of information technologies for trade; trade and environment; the interrelationship between trade and competition policy; capacity-building in developing countries in services and trading opportunities in this sector; reduction of the instability and risks faced by the commodity-export-dependent developing countries; promotion of commodity diversification; and efficient management of natural resources.

Topic 3

The Conference will focus on the identification of concrete policies, measures and actions, both at relevant national and international levels, needed to create and promote entrepreneurship and an enabling environment for the development of internationally competitive enterprises, taking into account the promotion of small and medium-size enterprises and their financing. Policy measures will be considered in an integrated manner covering areas such as: encouragement of domestic and foreign investment; development of technological capabilities and transfer of technology; privatization and public-sector reform; interrelationship between competition and enterprise development.

Topic 4

The Conference will assess the work completed by UNCTAD since its eighth session, as well as the institutional reforms adopted at that session. The Conference will also consider the future role of UNCTAD, including its relationship with other international institutions to generate synergies among them. On the basis of UNCTAD's mandate and with a view to strengthening the United Nations system, the Conference should enable UNCTAD to become a more effective instrument for promoting development and the full integration of the developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the world economy and the international trading system. The Conference should take into consideration the need for the integration of the interested economies in transition into the world economy and the international trading system. Taking also into account the outcomes under topics 1, 2 and 3, the Conference would decide on the work programme implications and on the structures and orientations of the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD.

The Conference will also consider, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, UNCTAD's contribution, within its competence, to the follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences, including *inter alia* the World Summit for Social Development.

EDITORIAL

(continued from page 2)

capacity of firms to promote growth, and especially export-led growth. Instead, firms were regarded as passive, owing to an assumption of perfect competition. As a result, many international organizations had concentrated only on macroeconomic variables in their analyses of international competitiveness and in their provision of policy advice to developing countries. In a world where the strategic actions of firms influence the international competitiveness of nations, the issue of

(continued on page 5)

MR. FORTIN, OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF UNCTAD, ADDRESSES THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Carlos Fortin addressed the World Summit for Social Development - held from 6 to 12 March 1995 in Copenhagen - on the impact of new developments in the international trading system, on poverty alleviation, and on the role of science and technology in meeting basic needs.

He acknowledged the apprehension among some developing country Governments that the results of the Uruguay Round Agreement may negatively affect the social situation - particularly in Africa and in the least developed countries - notably owing to the erosion of trade preferences and rises in prices of food imports. He reported that the UNCTAD secretariat had undertaken a modelling exercise to examine the possible effects of the Round on the livelihood of the poor in developing countries. The simulation had established that, in the long term, the incidence of poverty may be reduced by half a per cent as a result of trade liberalization under the Uruguay Round, benefiting approximately 16 million people. This figure, however, masked the differences in the impact of the Uruguay Round on poverty in different regions and subregions. The decline in poverty would be significant in East Asia and moderate in other parts of Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa; by contrast, the incidence of poverty could actually increase by 0.1 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa, affecting one-quarter of a million people.

Bearing in mind the economic and social implications of the Round, the Trade and Development Board was encouraging developing countries to continue to pursue their trade policy reforms, while at the same time recommending that attempts be made to incorporate social components and safety nets into efforts to protect the most vulnerable social groups. He emphasized the need for sustained support from the international community for developing countries, in the form of improved market access and increased flows of financial resources, debt relief, and assistance for human resources development.

Mr. Fortin added that UNCTAD would be carefully monitoring the implications for poverty concerns of the new trading system arising from the Uruguay Round Agreements. Relationships between the trading system and internationally recognized labour standards and between trade, development, political stability and poverty alleviation were thus among the new and emerging issues for scrutiny by UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board.

Turning to the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), he focused on the importance of technology for addressing the basic needs of low-income populations and drew attention to the findings of an Expert Panel regarding the growing discontinuity between the day-to-day existence of people facing basic needs deficiencies and the corpus of advanced scientific and technological knowledge. The Panel's work had revealed that scant attention had been given to the role of technology in alleviating poverty and that there had been a failure to replicate adequately the successful cases of poverty alleviation or to launch a systematic effort to apply technology to basic needs satisfaction. Hence, it was recommended that countries build into their scientific and technological strategies the mechanisms related to identifying the basic needs of their populations, and that they carefully survey existing technical assistance, extension services and other programmes from this point of view. The objective would be to support technological upgrading of small and medium-sized enterprises and to encourage networking of scientific and technological institutions and enterprises.

In closing, Mr. Fortin drew attention to the Preparatory Meeting on Women in Development in the Least Developed Countries, held in Niamey, in January 1995, and to the preparations for the Mid-term Global Review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, scheduled to be held in New York in September 1995. He added that the objectives of the Declaration of the Niamey meeting had been incorporated into the draft Declaration of the World Summit for Social Development. Finally, he noted that UNCTAD IX, which would be held in spring 1996, would provide an opportunity for further integrating the social aspects of development into UNCTAD's programme of work.

EDITORIAL

(continued from page 4)

enterprise development gains increasing prominence.

The provisional agenda also emphasizes the need for *concrete* policies, measures and actions, under various issues related to topics 2 and 3. The Conference will be expected to adopt measures for remedying specific problems of developing countries in order to enhance further their development prospects, for the long-term benefit of all countries.

As a whole, the agenda of the Conference provides the basis for strengthening UNCTAD's capacity to carry out its development mission and for member countries to purposefully explore how best to adapt its mandate accordingly.

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN EAST ASIAN NEWLY INDUSTRIALIZING ECONOMIES: THE EXPERIENCE OF POST-WAR JAPAN, 1953-1973

*Charles Gore**

This brief is a contribution to the debate about the role of government in the growth process of the successful newly industrializing economies in East Asia, and about the lessons for other developing countries. It considers Japan as a newly industrializing economy and examines some important aspects of its development strategy in the post-war period (1953-1973).

1. NATIONAL GOALS AND STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS

The basic goals of Japanese economic policy during this period were to continue to promote the reconstruction of the economy in the aftermath of the Second World War and then to catch up with advanced industrial countries. "Catching up" was seen as a process of building up the production capabilities and international competitiveness of Japanese firms in a range of industries characteristic of advanced industrial countries. Measures to promote the international competitiveness of Japanese firms were undertaken selectively, i.e. in specific sectors, in each period. From 1950 to 1955, when post-war reconstruction was still proceeding, emphasis was placed on rebuilding the capacities of basic industries, particularly coal mining, electric power, ocean shipping, and the iron and steel industry. But from the mid-1950s until the early 1970s, as these industries developed, policy was directed at improving the international competitiveness of the so-called "heavy and chemical industries", whose basic sectors include: the iron and steel industry, non-ferrous metal industries, automobiles, industrial and electrical machinery, and the petrochemical and its associated processing industries. In the 1970s, when industrial catch-up was complete, emphasis shifted to "knowledge-intensive" industries.

The industries chosen in each period were initially developed to serve the domestic market, but eventually expanded and developed to supply foreign markets. There was, however, no economy-wide transition from inward-orientation to outward-orientation at any single point of time. Rather, each industry progressed from import substitution to export expansion. These transitions occurred sequentially as productivity and competitiveness were improved through learning and economies of scale.

The development of selected industries took place by means of a distortion of resource allocation at an early stage of industrialization, if judged according to the principles of static comparative advantage, in that labour was abundant and capital was scarce in the early 1950s. The Government, however, rejected the principle of static comparative advantage as a basis for allocating resources. Instead, it took a long-term view, and, after post-war reconstruction, sought to increase the international competitiveness of firms in those sectors in which the growth potential and the possibility for dynamic development were considered to be high. The priority sectors were those with high income elasticities of demand for their products and in which the potential for productivity improvement through technological progress was high.

2. KEY POLICY INGREDIENTS

Government policy was formulated incorporating the business point of view and implemented through measures which sought: (a) to increase the capabilities of firms by providing them with better means of production; (b) to expand the set of market opportunities open to business firms; (c) to diminish risks associated with seizing opportunities; and (d) to alter the relative risks and rewards of different courses of action. Key ingredients of the policy were: the competitive framework; industrial policies to enhance production capabilities at the firm level; and measures to overcome critical macro-economic constraints relating to the balance of payments and savings.

Competitive framework

The competitive framework which the Government encouraged had two important features. First, with regard to industry, there was a two-track competition policy. On the one hand, the exposure of Japanese firms to foreign competition was restricted as firms built up their international competitiveness. Liberalization proceeded slowly and selectively throughout the 1950s and 1960s. An industry was not exposed to foreign competition until it could begin to compete effectively. On the other hand, competition among large Japanese firms in the internal market was broadly encouraged. This was, however, done in a managed and pragmatic way which tempered the degree of competition if it was deemed "excessive". Allowing cartels to form for specific purposes, encouraging mergers, coordinating the activities of competing firms in terms of prices, output and investment through "administrative guidance" - all these were among the means exploited for the purpose.

Secondly, with regard to the financial sector, the Government promoted the development of industrial finance by banks, rather than through free capital markets. Further, it strongly regulated competition among banks by segmenting business fields, by regulating interest rates, and even by providing "window guidance", imposing specific quantitative ceilings on the aggregate lending of each bank when restraining economic activities was felt to be necessary. Guidance on the industrial development priorities of the Government was provided through government financial institutions, particularly the Japanese Development Bank. The financial system was insulated from international capital markets.

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* *This is a summary of a study with the same title and by the same author published as UNCTAD Discussion Paper No. 92, November 1994. Copies may be obtained from UNCTAD through the Editor.*

Industrial policies

Within this framework of financial and industrial organization, the Government adopted *firm-level* policies which sought to improve production capabilities within particular industries through an intertwined process of capital investment and technological change.

The Government promoted capital investment through an array of policies which affected the investment environment and profitability by taking measures which improved expectations of future revenues or reduced expenditures. Of central importance during the catch-up period, when firms were building up their internal sources of funds, was the low interest rate policy. Fiscal measures were also used to reduce the effective tax rate on corporate earnings and to allow firms to retain higher percentages of their profits. All these special incentives were provided in the context of "industrial rationalization" programmes for selected industries which involved an intense effort not only to reduce production costs but also to increase productivity at the firm level, and policies to improve the general environment of firms, as mentioned previously.

The Government also sought to improve the quality of capital investment at the firm level by regulating the channels of technology importation and by providing subsidies for research and development to improve imported technology. The Foreign Investment Law (1950) was used to limit foreign corporate ownership and to make licensing agreements the main formal channel of technology transfer throughout the catch-up period. Licensing agreements were screened, and in this process, the Government sought: to influence which new products and production processes were introduced into the Japanese economy and at what time; to secure better contractual terms, including a lower price for the Japanese firm negotiating a licensing agreement with the foreign firm; and to select, on the basis of their capabilities to use technology productively, the firms' importing technology.

Macroeconomic policies

Throughout the post-war catch-up period until the late 1960s, the rate of growth in Japan was constrained by the balance of payments. Then a virtuous circle was started in which investment laid the foundation for export growth by expanding and modernizing production facilities, while rising exports made it possible to step up investment. The firm-level industrial development policies gave momentum to this dynamic, encouraging private investment and innovation and focusing on those sectors where the expansion of international trade was likely to be highest and where the potential for productivity gains was greatest. Exchange rate policy (which essentially involved refusing to change the 360 yen=$1 rate, which had been set in 1949, until 1971, when a revaluation to 308 yen=$1 was made) also supported strong export growth. Moreover, the Government undertook some explicit export-promotion measures, including preferential export financing, fiscal incentives and institutional support.

Underpinning the whole growth process in Japan during the post-war period of industrial catch-up was a rapid increase in domestic savings, particularly corporate savings. The main factor behind increasing corporate savings was the rise in the mass of profits, which was influenced by the whole array of measures to encourage investment and innovation, including the delay in trade liberalization, limitation on foreign direct investment, phased entry of new technology, permissible cartelization, and low interest rates coupled with rationed credit for industry. Household savings were also encouraged through the safeguarding of the financial system and through fiscal incentives to savers. The Government directly contributed to the growth of domestic savings. This was done through its general fiscal stance which sought to maintain a balanced budget on its general account, while channelling fiscal investment and loan funds to both public and private enterprises through its policy-based finance institutions. General government savings, equivalent to between 4 per cent and 8.5 per cent of GNP between 1955 and 1972, were achieved in spite of a policy of low taxation.

3. CONCLUSION

The long history of industrialization in Japan (which began in the late nineteenth century) and its specific post-war situation raise questions about the absolute relevance of Japan's post-war development policy to other developing countries. But despite its uniqueness, the country's development experience contains policy ideas which can be taken up elsewhere, even if it does not offer a total "country model". This is shown by both Taiwan Province of China and the Republic of Korea, whose Governments borrowed elements of the Japanese approach, configuring them in a new national context (with, in particular, a smaller national market) and a new international context. To ignore Japan's experience as a newly industrializing economy, or to treat it as less relevant to development policy debates than Singapore and Hong Kong or to sever it from analysis of East Asian industrialization, is to impoverish development policy analysis.

MEETINGS IN JULY-SEPTEMBER 1995

- **3-7 July:** Ad Hoc Working Group on the Role of Enterprises in Development, second session
- **19-21 July:** Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Rules of Origin
- **28 August - 1 September:** Ad Hoc Working Group on Trading Opportunities in the New International Trading Context, first session
- **11-20 September:** Trade and Development Board, forty-second session, first part
- **25-29 September:** Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries, third session
- **25 September - 6 October (New York):** High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-Term Global Review on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN UNCTAD'S ACTIVITIES IN MARITIME TRANSPORT AND RELATED SERVICES

Introduction

The member States of UNCTAD decided at UNCTAD VIII, held in Carthagena de Indias in 1992, to restructure the intergovernmental bodies of UNCTAD, including in the area of services. In view of the increasing importance of services in the development process, the need was perceived to consolidate various activities in this area, such as shipping, transport, insurance and other services, into a single intergovernmental body. Accordingly, it was decided to establish a Standing Committee on "Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries". The Committee meets in three segments: services (in general), shipping and insurance. Subsequent to this decision, organizational arrangements were made to integrate work relating to the above areas under a single secretariat Division dealing with services.

The new setting

In the area of shipping and transport, it is a well-known fact that flexible and efficient international transport services can raise the efficiency of trade and reduce the costs of international trade transactions. However, many countries, particularly developing countries and countries in transition, experience serious organizational problems in the carriage of their imports and exports. As a result, their trade bears relatively high distribution and marketing costs, which in turn reduce international competitiveness and pose constraints on business expansion.

In a globalizing world economy, transport no longer constitutes an isolated process of moving goods from one point to another, but forms an integral part of a global production and marketing process. The introduction of modern transport technologies, such as containerization, requires new concepts and approaches to the organizational and operational aspects of transport. The door-to-door transport requirement has become the driving force in moving away from segmented transport arrangements to a logistical transport concept covering the total transport chain under a single command and responsibility. This development poses enormous challenges to transport operations, particularly at interface points, and requires addressing not only the physical element of the operations but the transport framework as a whole, including the regulatory and liability regimes.

The role of ports

In the light of the changing international environment for trade, the role of ports has gained greater significance in terms of transport logistics. Studies prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat for the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports (see list below) examine various factors contributing to efficient management and sustainable development of ports as a means to foster competitive maritime transport services and strengthen capacities for trade. The research undertaken points to the need for ports to adapt their role to new requirements emerging from the globalization of the production process. Ports are developing into active interface nodal points in a global transport chain. Furthermore, they are increasingly performing functions related to logistics, distribution and marketing in many developed and developing countries. The findings of the Group of Expert were submitted to the Standing Committee on Services (Shipping).

Liberalization of shipping services

The same Standing Committee has also held extensive discussions on measures for progressive liberalization of shipping services and their impact on the development of competitive shipping services, a debate that was timely in view of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. Progressive liberalization of shipping services affects not only the policy orientation for ship operations but equally all other activities in the transport sector. In order to address this issue, the UNCTAD secretariat had prepared additional analyses on the subject of progressive liberalization and the development of shipping services, as well as on the need for maritime policy reforms in developing countries and countries in transition.

New concepts and technologies

The changing requirements with regard to providing competitive services in transport have many interdependent facets ranging from the cost-effective transportation of goods to the conceptual part of transport. New concepts in transportation are usually linked to transport technology. Experts agree that, in the new international political context, market opportunities for containerization will continue to expand into geographical areas where such potential has not yet been fully explored. In view of this, the UNCTAD secretariat has continued to focus on substantive and promotional activities in the area of multimodal transport. Its analysis has covered a wide range of issues. Reports such as those on *Containerization and Standards*, *Mega Multimodal Transport Operators and Mega Carriers*, *Multimodal Transport Operators and Trading Opportunities*, and *Facing the Challenge of Integrated Transport Services* are all intended for a better understanding of the issues and enhancing the knowledge of operators in developing and other countries.

In order to make it easier for newcomers to the shipping and transport services to familiarize themselves with all aspects of multimodal transport, a *Handbook of Multimodal Transport* is under preparation. It summarizes experiences in the sector in the various

geographical areas. This *Handbook* is being produced in close cooperation with the private sector, ensuring that pertinent practical issues are highlighted.

The regulatory framework

In most of these outputs, the secretariat has attempted to assess the effects of liberalization of shipping services in light of the need for increased competitiveness. The findings point to the fact that, although there is a need for progressive liberalization of transport services, this sector cannot function effectively without a modern regulatory framework. Outdated regulations have often been a handicap for developing countries. Recent work of the UNCTAD secretariat in the field of maritime legislation has been focused on this aspect, and advice and assistance in this regard are provided to developing countries upon request.

Financing structural change

In order to meet the requirements with regard to financing structural change in shipping services, joint work with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has resulted in the adoption of the International Convention on Maritime Liens and Mortgages. This Convention is intended to improve conditions for ship financing and to promote international uniformity in the field of maritime liens and mortgages. The next joint meeting of UNCTAD-IMO will review the 1952 International Convention on Arrest of Sea-going Ships. A draft set of articles for a convention on arrest of ships is already available and is awaiting further examination.

Technical cooperation

As indicated above, UNCTAD, in close cooperation with other United Nations agencies and the donor community, provides developing countries and countries in transition with assistance on economic, commercial and legal aspects of maritime and multimodal transport services. Moreover, it provides training facilities in the field of maritime transport. Three programmes are designed for these purposes. They include the Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS), TRAINMAR and Improving Port Performance (IPP).

TRAINMAR, in particular, has gained world-wide recognition as a network programme directly responding to the needs of developing countries in the area of human resource development in transport.

ACIS, as a cargo tracking system, provides importers and exporters with information on their cargo movements from the place of origin to the final destination. The system is not only capable of monitoring the physical movement of cargoes but can also record the transport mode (ship, railway wagon, truck, etc.). The latter component of the system makes it an efficient management tool for transport operators. ACIS is being fully implemented in East Africa. It will also soon be installed in Asia, Latin America and CIS countries.

IPP courses cover a wide range of activities, including the management of general cargo operations, planning of a container terminal, management and maintenance of port equipment and the new commercial role of ports - all of which directly contribute to cost-effective and efficient transport.

Conclusion

The need for change in the transport sector is a direct result of new trends in the world economy, particularly those related to the processes of globalization and liberalization. New activities of UNCTAD in the area of transport are designed to improve further the efficiency of production and trading operations and to enhance the organizational capacity of developing countries to respond to the needs of the market and to improve their competitiveness.

RECENT UNCTAD PUBLICATIONS IN THE AREA OF MARITIME TRANSPORT AND RELATED ISSUES

Shipping

- Progressive liberalization and the development of shipping services in developing countries (TD/B/CN.4/34 and Corr.1)
- Review of Maritime Transport, 1993 (TD/B/CN.4/37)
- Changes in national practices covering shipping ocean carrier relations (UNCTAD/SDD/SHIP/2)
- Ship finance for developing countries (UNCTAD/SDD/SHIP/3)
- Maritime policy reforms in the NIS (UNCTAD/SDD/SHIP/4)
- Fostering competitive shipping services (impact of progressive liberalization and the development of shipping services) (UNCTAD/SDD/SHIP/5)

Ports

- The principles of modern port management and organization (TD/B/C.4/AC.7/13)
- Port marketing and the challenge of the third generation ports (TD/B/C.4/AC.7/14)
- Legal aspects of port management (UNCTAD/SHIP/639)
- The management and development of human resources in ports (UNCTAD/SHIP/644)
- Strategic planning for port authorities (UNCTAD/SHIP/646)
- Sustainable developments for ports (UNCTAD/SDD/PORT/1)
- Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Ports (TD/B/CN.4/GE.1/4)
- Strategic port pricing (UNCTAD/SDD/PORT/2)

Port management monographs

- Computerized container terminal management (UNCTAD/SHIP/494(10))
- Electronic data interchanges concerning ports (UNCTAD/SHIP/494(11))
- Marketing promotion tools for ports (UNCTAD/SHIP/494(12))

(continued on page 15)

REVIEWS

THE ROLE OF WAGE STICKINESS IN ECONOMIC GROWTH
Alexandre Rands Barros
UNCTAD Discussion Paper No. 96, February 1995

The paper develops a modified version of Romer's model of growth with endogenous technical change which incorporates the idea that a real wage adjusts slowly to its long-term equilibrium path. The dynamics of the model when it is displaced from its steady state path by an autonomous change in the real wage is also analysed. It is argued that the consequence of this sluggish wage adjustment is that its exogenous shocks push the economy to accelerate technical progress before it reaches the steady state again. Such acceleration and growth motivated by wage increases could explain the experience of the Swedish model and recent empirical findings for the Brazilian economy.

HOW DID EAST ASIA GROW SO FAST?
Ajit Singh
UNCTAD Discussion Paper No. 97, February 1995

A central analytical and policy question currently raised in the field of economic development is: why did East Asia grow so fast? The facts of East Asian (including Japan's) growth are not in dispute. It is no exaggeration to say that the post-World War II development of East Asia is the most successful story of sustained economic growth in the history of humankind. The subject is controversial and has led to a vigorous analytical and policy debate between the World Bank and its critics. The paper reviews the progress of this debate, carries it further and sums up the unresolved issues which are still in dispute.

THE ROLE OF THE FIRM IN THE INNOVATION PROCESS
Zeljka Kozul-Wright
UNCTAD Discussion Paper No. 98, April 1995

This paper attempts to marry recent work on the economics of technological change with an institutional theory of the firm. Following Schumpeter, the paper assigns to the firm a central place in the development of new products and processes. But in contrast to the Schumpeterian theory of technical change, firm size is considered of secondary importance. Rather, the paper follows a more institutional analysis in interpreting the firm as a continuum of long-run relationships in support of learning. From this perspective, the paper summarizes the main advantages and disadvantages of small and large firms and argues that it is the dynamic complementarities of firms of different sizes that provide a favourable environment for innovation and structural change. Some policy implications of this approach are illustrated with respect to the nature and impact of new information-based technologies and the industrialization process in developing countries.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY AND FINANCIAL ISSUES FOR THE 1990s
United Nations publication
Volume V - UNCTAD/GID/G24/5
Volume VI - UNCTAD/GID/G24/6

These two volumes are the continuation of the series reviewed in previous issues of the *Bulletin*. The series brings together new research on international monetary affairs, prepared for the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four (G.24). The papers included in Volumes V and VI are the following:

Volume V

- *The negative net transfers of the World Bank*
  Goran Ohlin
- *A critical review of the World Bank's approach to social-sector lending and poverty alleviation*
  Louis Emmerij
- *Structural adjustment policies and economic performance of African countries*
  Nguyuru H.I. Lipumba
- *The East Asian Miracle: Why the controversy continues*
  Robert Wade
- *The functioning of international markets for primary commodities: Key policy issues for developing countries*
  Alfred Maizels
- *Effective use of financial markets for risk management by developing countries: A policy overview*
  Donald R. Lessard

Volume VI

- *Developing countries and the Uruguay Round: An evaluation and issues for the future*
  Manuel R. Agosin, Gustavo Crespi and Diana Tussie
- *Developing Countries after the Uruguay Round*
  Dani Rodrik
- *The Uruguay Round: Unravelling the implications for the least developed and low-income countries*
  Ann Weston

THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES 1995 REPORT
United Nations publication
Sales No. E.95.II.D.2, $US 55

The *Least Developed Countries 1995 Report* reviews progress in the implementation of the Programme of

Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in recent years, particularly 1994. In so doing, it also forecasts a 2.3 per cent GDP growth rate for the LDCs in 1995, compared with an average of less than 1.6 per cent during 1990-1994. This forecast is predicated on recent improvements in world commodity prices, the return of peace and stability in some LDCs affected by political difficulties, and the improved performance of certain LDCs that have been faring well in the last few years. Nevertheless, since the population of LDCs is growing annually at a rate of close to under 3 per cent, on average, such improved prospects would still mean a decline in per capita income for the group as a whole. The report underlines that growth performances vary considerably among LDCs. It reviews domestic policy reforms, performance in the productive sectors, financing issues, external trading prospects and official development assistance (ODA) trends. The report also looks at priorities for the future. The socio-economic performance of the LDCs will be examined by the United Nations at a High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting, which will conduct the Mid-term Global Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. The Meeting will be held in New York from 26 September to 6 October 1995. Currently 48 countries are classified as least developed countries, with a combined population of 580 million in 1994.

TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS

Vol. 3, No. 2, August 1994
United Nations publication
One year subscription $US 35, single issue $US 15

Transnational Corporations is a refereed journal published three times a year by UNCTAD. It carries articles that provide insight into the economic, legal, social and cultural impact of transnational corporations. The last issue features the following articles and research notes:

- *Towards an Asia-Pacific investment code*
  Edward Graham
- *The effects of the Single Market programme on FDI into developing countries*
  Jamuna Prasad Agrawal
- *Designing developmental after-care programmes for foreign direct investors in the European Union*
  Stephen Young and Neil Hood
- *World Investment Report 1994: Transnational Corporations, Employment and the Workplace: An Executive Summary*
  UNCTAD, Division on Transnational Corporations and Investment
- *Indicators of FDI in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe: A comparison of data sources*
  Thomas L. Brewer
- *Does the United States have a deficit with Japan in FDI?*
  Sidney J. Gray and Alan M. Rugman

EXPANSION OF TRADING OPPORTUNITIES TO THE YEAR 2000 FOR ASIA-PACIFIC DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

UNCTAD/ITD/13

UNCTAD has released a comprehensive volume (498 pages) on the experience of the Asian-Pacific region in strategies for export expansion, entitled *Expansion of trading opportunities to the year 2000 for Asia-Pacific developing countries: National strategies and institutional frameworks*. The study reviews information that was presented at a high-level workshop organized by UNCTAD in Jakarta (Indonesia) in 1994, in collaboration with the National Agency for Export Development of Indonesia, with the support of UNDP. The publication contains 18 case studies, which are divided into three categories: countries and territories with long-established, successful export strategies; countries which registered in recent years an export performance that has been particularly dynamic; and countries that have recently launched significant reforms in order to develop their exports.

THE TRADABILITY OF BANKING SERVICES: IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

United Nations publication
Sales No. E.94.II.A.12, $US 50

UNCTAD has released a report on *The tradability of banking services: Impact and implications* which anticipates a significant change in the extent and pattern of international transactions in banking services as a result of the emergence of new telecommunication and data-processing technologies. The study is the first in a series on services industries prepared thanks to funding by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs/DANIDA.

The report analyses the impact of increased tradability of banking services on trade and investment flows and the policy implications arising therefrom. Some 37 types of banking services which together account for about 90 per cent of banking activities are examined. For each of these services, it identifies their components and sub-components, and their transportability and technology content. In each case it explores opportunities for developing countries to take part in the "product-assembly process" by way of identifying the required technology and skill endowments. The study further identifies some policy options for enhancing opportunities for countries to benefit from the tradability of banking services; it also outlines the necessary practical measures to be initiated at international or bilateral levels to assist developing countries in exploiting these opportunities.

NOTES

EXPERTS DISCUSS WAYS OF INTERNALIZING ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS

Some 15 experts from ten countries held a brainstorming meeting on internalization of environmental costs and resource values, in the area of primary commodities in particular. The meeting was organized by UNCTAD and the International Academy of the Environment (located in Geneva) on 13 and 14 February 1995. Experts discussed empirical work undertaken on the internalization of environmental costs in the agricultural sector, and provided guidance on the preparation of three country case studies (on Egypt, South Africa and the Czech Republic) which are being conducted jointly by UNCTAD and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The results of the discussions contributed to the formulation of recommendations on the design and implementation of economic and environmental policies of developing countries at the national and international levels.

FORUM ON THE RESULTS OF THE URUGUAY ROUND AND THE PROMOTION OF SOUTH-SOUTH TRADE

UNCTAD and "Promociones Exteriores Canarias" (PROEXCA) jointly organized a forum for African, Arab and Latin American trading enterprises in Las Palmas, Canary Islands, from 26 to 28 April 1995. The forum brought together representatives from enterprises, chambers of commerce, national associations, regional trading enterprises, national, regional and international institutions for the promotion of trade and economic cooperation, and national agencies for development cooperation. The main objectives were to examine the role played by enterprises in developing countries in the area of international trade. An attempt was made to shed light on the situation of private enterprises in the region since entry-into-force of the Uruguay Round Agreements, and to explore the possibilities of cooperation among these enterprises for further trade expansion. Participants also discussed the implication of the Uruguay Round for South-South trade in general. They examined, in particular, promotion of South-South trade from the Canary Islands. They also explored the potential for trade expansion of cooperation among trading enterprises of developing countries at the regional and interregional levels.

AFRICA AFTER THE URUGUAY ROUND

UNCTAD and the Commonwealth Secretariat organized a regional meeting in Harare on 14 and 15 March 1995, focusing on the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements in Africa. The meeting was attended by approximately 100 trade policy-makers and private sector representatives from 20 African countries, who discussed the following issues: (a) ways of assessing the implications of the Uruguay Round for policy changes at the country level; (b) modalities for increasing the involvement of the private sector in the process of trade policy formulation, e.g. marketing; and (c) supporting services required by the private sector in trade expansion (information, institutional infrastructure, set-up, etc.).

Immediately after this meeting, UNCTAD and the United Nations Department of Development Support and Management Services launched phase II of the CAPAS project, in Harare on 16 and 17 March 1995. CAPAS (Coordinated African Programme of Assistance on Services) is a major capacity-building programme focusing on developing human resources capacity in analysis, policy-making and implementation in the area of services, in general, and trade in services, in particular, in order to further development in selected African countries. Phase I of CAPAS was concluded in May 1994. CAPAS phase II involves 10 African countries and focuses on the preparation of sectoral studies carried out at both the national and the regional levels. The sectoral studies will cover: trade logistics services, financial services, telecommunications and other services important to African economies, as well as trade in services of skilled labour. They will focus on identifying policy needs in these areas at the domestic, regional, and multilateral levels, including the issue of optimal regulation of service activities.

SESSION ON RESTRICTIVE BUSINESS PRACTICES

UNCTAD's Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices held its fourteenth session from 6 to 10 March 1995. Experts from 58 countries made proposals for expanding the UNCTAD mandate to strengthen multilateral cooperation in the area of competition laws and assistance to developing countries to formulate their national competition policies. The proposals will be submitted to the third United Nations Conference to Review all Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules on Restrictive Business Practices. The Set had been adopted by the General Assembly in 1980. The proposals adopted by the Group recommend that Governments, at the Review Conference, call on UNCTAD to identify broad similarities and differences in the approaches to competition policies in different countries. Topics identified for analysis and exchange of views include: the role of competition policy in the economic development of developing countries and in strengthening the private sector and appropriate measures to help those countries negatively affected by restrictive business practices. The Group also underlined the need for

further analysis of such issues as the interface between competition, technological innovation and efficiency; the competition policy treatment of vertical restraints and abuses of dominant position; and the competition policy treatment of the exercise and licensing of intellectual property rights (IPRS) or know-how. Other proposals aim at strengthening UNCTAD's technical assistance in the area of competition policy.

UNCTAD SEMINAR ON PRIVATIZATION AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISE REFORM

UNCTAD organized in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 22 to 24 March 1995 a policy seminar on privatization and public enterprise reform. Its purpose was to demonstrate the benefits that may be gained from privatization, and to identify related potential pitfalls and problem areas. The seminar was attended by approximately 70 participants, including government officials from institutions involved in the formulation of policies for privatization and public enterprise reform, senior officials from public enterprises, and representatives of the private sector. The seminar focused on issues related to the design and successful implementation of privatization policies and programmes and presented a spectrum of options available to Governments seeking a greater role for the private sector. Specific topics addressed included: the objectives and strategy of privatization; non-divestiture and divestiture options and their financing; competition and regulation; infrastructure for privatization; and social aspects of privatization.

FORUM ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIABILITIES OF ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS

UNCTAD organized, in the framework of the annual meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, a Forum on Responsibilities and Liabilities of Accountants and Auditors. The Forum took place in Geneva on 16 March 1995. Panellists included the following distinguished international experts: R.H. Murray, Director of Claims and Risk Services, Deloitte Touche of Tohmatsu International; W. Ebke, Professor of Law and Former Dean, School of Law, University of Konstanz; C.D. Liggio, Former General Counsellor, Ernst and Young (New York); C.Ch. Mout, Partner, law firm of Nauta Dutilh, the Netherlands; J.K. Loebbecke, Professor of Auditing and Accounting and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (David Eccles School of Business), University of Utah. In addition, presentations were made by B.P. Germond, President of the Compagnie Nationale des Commissaires aux Comptes (France) and D. Darbyshire, Partner, Arthur Andersen and Co. (London), Vice President, Federation of European Accountants (United Kingdom). The experts addressed wide-ranging fiscal issues such as: tax structures in developing countries and the objectives of tax reforms; commodity taxation and the value added tax; raising public revenue in low-income countries; public expenditure analysis; poverty alleviation in a financing programming framework. Several developing country participants provided information on their own country's experience. A number of conclusions and policy implications emerged from the Forum.

MEETING ON FISCAL POLICY REFORMS IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

UNCTAD convened an Expert Group Meeting on Fiscal Policy in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Geneva on 16 and 17 March 1995. The meeting, organized with the financial support of the Government of the Netherlands, formed part of the preparatory process for the High Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, scheduled to be held in New York from 25 September to 6 October 1995. Different options available in the field of tax reforms were discussed and ways explored for raising revenue in the LDCs. Options were prepared for fiscal policy action for LDC Governments. Participants included fiscal policy experts from nine LDCs, representatives of the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia (ESCAP), the former Minister of Finance of Tunisia and several academics.

ROUND TABLE FOR AFRO-ARAB ENTERPRISES

UNCTAD organized, on the occasion of the First Afro-Arab Business Week, a round-table discussion on the expansion of trade and economic cooperation and investment between African and Arab countries in Cairo (Egypt) on 20 and 21 March 1995. The round table was convened by the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States and the Government of Egypt. The main topic was the implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements for the private sector.

The round table also provided an opportunity for the business communities of African and Arab countries to strengthen their relationships and to examine the role of the private sector in the new environment for trade and investment characterized by the emergence of new economic groupings, the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of the World Trade Organization.

TRAINFORTRADE SEMINARS

The UNCTAD secretariat organized, in cooperation with the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce and with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), two TRAINFORTRADE seminars on the subject of "Trade with European Single Market Countries" in Aleppo on 22 and 23 March 1995 and in Damascus from 25 to 27 March 1995. The seminars were designed to help Syrian exporters take advantage of the changes that the European Single Market will

introduce in market access conditions, and to explore in a systematic manner all possibilities offered to them to access the European Single Market. Twenty-five participants, mainly export managers, traders, bank managers and trade promotion officers, attended each of the seminars. The seminars form part of the UNCTAD programme known as TRAINFORTRADE, which aims at strengthening the human resources of developing countries in the field of trade and trade-related services through the design, production and dissemination of high-quality training packages and the training of trainers.

Four other TRAINFORTRADE seminars were being organized for African countries of the CFA area during the first half of 1995, respectively in Senegal, Mali, Benin and Cameroon.

CONFERENCE ON SMALL, MEDIUM AND MICRO ENTERPRISES

The Ministry of Trade and Industry of South Africa, in cooperation with UNCTAD, convened a President's Conference on Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in Durban, from 28 to 31 March 1995. The principal objective of the Conference was to enable the various SMME stakeholders in South Africa to engage in a discussion of issues related to the development and operation of small business with the presence of President Mandela and relevant Cabinet Ministers. Some 2000 participants took part in the event.

SEMINAR ON IMPLICATIONS OF THE URUGUAY ROUND

UNCTAD convened in Beirut, from 5 to 7 April 1995, a seminar on the implications of the Uruguay Round Agreement for the Lebanese economy. The seminar, organized with the financial support of UNDP, is part of a series of activities undertaken by UNCTAD in the Arab region on the implications of the Uruguay Round Agreements for these economies. The principal theme related to: the globalization of world markets and the further integration of the Lebanese economy into the world economy; Lebanon's participation in the international trading system, with a focus on the impact of the Uruguay Round on Lebanon's trade prospects; and Lebanon's accession to the World Trade Organization and to regional free trade agreements. Around 200 participants, from both the Lebanese private and public sectors, took part in the seminar.

AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE ROLE OF ENTERPRISES IN DEVELOPMENT

The UNCTAD Ad Hoc Working Group on the Role of Enterprises in Development held its first session in Geneva from 3 to 7 April 1995. In light of the key role small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can play in the development process, attention was given to the respective roles of the State and of the private sector in support of SMEs, particularly those engaged in export activities. Experts from 57 countries from all regions attended the session.

The objective is to distil elements for policies at the national and international levels and to identify "best practices" in support of SMEs development. The Working Group had before it a report by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled: "Creating an enabling environment for the development of enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises". The Working Group also had before it a series of country studies prepared by member countries. At its second session, beginning on 3 July 1995, the Group is expected to discuss financing of SMEs and deal with issues related to the provision of technical cooperation to developing countries in their efforts to develop SMEs.

EXPERT GROUP ON TRADE DIVERSIFICATION IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The Expert Group Meeting on Trade Diversification in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), held in Geneva from 10 to 11 April 1995, was attended by 20 experts from LDCs as well as representatives of multilateral organizations and resource persons, academics and representatives of the private sector. The conclusions of the meeting provided a useful input to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. The Expert Group recognized that the problems faced by LDCs in enhancing their participation in world trade go far beyond the ambit of the multilateral trading system and the WTO. In the absence of concerted national and multilateral efforts which would contribute to alleviating supply-side constraints on diversification, the trade position and economic weight of LDCs in the international economy will remain marginal.

EXPERT MEETING TO EXPLORE WAYS OF PROMOTING TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS

UNCTAD, in cooperation with the Technology Partnership Initiative (TPI) of the Department of Trade and Industry (United Kingdom), organized an expert meeting on 10 and 11 April 1995. The meeting brought together experts from developed and developing countries to discuss the following questions: How can innovative strategies for technology development and diffusion, such as strategic alliances and technology partnerships, be adapted to the needs of developing countries? How can such models be used to promote a faster and more effective dissemination of environmentally sound technologies? What measures are necessary to induce technological capacity-building, particularly in LDCs? The meeting recognized, *inter alia*, that successful partnerships can stimulate the diffusion of new technologies and up-grade skills in developing countries. UNCTAD was asked to consider programmes and projects exploring collaboration of firms in LDCs in the pertinent areas of technology.

RECENT UNCTAD PUBLICATIONS

- Competition and trade in the post-Uruguay Round period - The case of the Republic of Korea (UNCTAD/ITD/11); Economic competition and restrictive business practices - The development of Jamaican competition legislation (UNCTAD/ITD/12); Expansion of trading opportunities to the year 2000 for Asia-Pacific developing countries - National strategies and institutional frameworks for export expansion (UNCTAD/ITD/13)
- The Least Developed Countries 1995 Report - Executive summary (TD/B/41(2)/4); Transit transport systems in West and Central Africa (UNCTAD/LDC/94); Transit transport system for Ethiopia (UNCTAD/LDC/96); Selected basic transport indicators in the land-locked developing countries (UNCTAD/LDC/97); Transit transport systems in Asia (UNCTAD/LDC/98); Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Fiscal Reforms in the Least Developed Countries (TD/B/LDC/GR/1); Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Women in Development in the Least Developed Countries (TD/B/LDC/GR/2)
- National implementation of ECDC decisions and programmes - A case study of Malaysia (UNCTAD/ECDC/247); National implementation of subregional, regional and interregional decisions and programmes - A case study of Zimbabwe (UNCTAD/ECDC/249)
- Developments in the services sector in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, 1967-1990 (UNCTAD/ECDC/SEU/7); Environment and development prospects in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (UNCTAD/ECDC/SEU/8); Review of labour and employment trends in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (UNCTAD/ECDC/SEU/9)
- Report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Tungsten on its third session (TD/B/CN.1/27 - TD/B/CN.1/TUNGSTEN/11)
- International Natural Rubber Agreement, 1995 (TD/RUBBER.3/11)
- Report on the evaluation of the ITC subprogramme - Import operations and techniques (ITC/AG(XXVII)/140); Report of the ITC Technical Meeting 1994 (ITC/AG(XXVII)/141))
- Transnational Corporations (UNCTAD/DTCI/18 - Vol. 4, No. 1)
- Incentives and foreign direct investment (TD/B/ITNC/Misc.1); Foreign direct investment in Central and Eastern Europe (TD/B/ITNC/Misc.2); Activities of the programme on international investment and transnational corporations (TD/B/ITNC/Misc.3)
- Ad Hoc Working Group on the Role of Enterprises in Development - Country presentation submitted by the Arab Republic of Egypt (TD/B/WG.7/Misc.17); Ad Hoc Working Group on the Role of Enterprises in Development - Country presentation submitted by Malaysia (TD/B/WG.7/Misc.18)
- Review of environmental damage estimates in agriculture and internalization measures (UNCTAD/COM/52); Proceedings of the Seminar on Capacity Building for Environmental Management in Asian/Pacific Mining (UNCTAD/COM/60 - reissued for technical reasons)
- Enlarging and deepening monetary, financial and investment cooperation among developing countries and promoting cooperation of the enterprise sectors of developing countries (TD/B/CN.3/13)

Sales Publications

- *The Tradability of Banking Services: Impact and Implications* - Sales No. E.94.II.A.12, $US 50
- *International Monetary and Financial Issues for the 1990s* - Vol. VI, Sales No. E.95.II.D.7
- *Transnational Corporations* - Vol. 3, No. 3 (ISSN 1014-9562), $US 15
- *National Legislation and Regulations Relating to Transnational Corporations* - Vol. VIII, Sales No. E.94.II.A.18, $US 60
- *The Least Developed Countries, 1995 Report - Mid-Term Review of the Programme of Action* - Sales No. E.95.II.D.2, $US 55

RECENT UNCTAD PUBLICATIONS *(continued from page 9)*
IN THE AERA OF MARITIME TRANSPORT AND RELATED ISSUES

Multimodal transport

- Competitive services in multimodal transport (TD/B/CN.4/46)
- Containerization and standards (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/2)
- Mega multimodal transport operators and mega carriers (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/4)
- Multimodal transport and trading opportunities (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/5)
- Facing the challenge of integrated transport services (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/7)
- Multimodal Transport Handbook (UNCTAD/SDD/MT/8)

Maritime legislation

- The place of general average in maritime insurance today (UNCTAD/SDD/LEG/1)
- General average - Reform of the system (UNCTAD/SDD/LEG/3)
- Legal aspects of ship leasing in developing countries (UNCTAD/SDD/LEG/4)
- Consideration of the review of the 1952 International Convention on Arrest of Sea-going Ships (TD/B/CN.4/GE.2/2)

FOR THE LIST OF MEETINGS, PLEASE SEE PAGE 7.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was set up by the General Assembly in 1964 as one of its permanent organs, mandated to promote international trade, particularly that of developing countries, with a view to accelerating their economic development. UNCTAD has evolved into a universal forum with a development perspective, in which member States review the interdependence of economies and of issues in trade, money and finance. UNCTAD is composed of 187 member States, including the 184 members of the United Nations; many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have observer status. The Conference normally meets every four years at ministerial level to establish policy guidelines. Between sessions, work is carried out by the Trade and Development Board and its standing committees, working groups and other subsidiary bodies. As part of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the Secretariat of the United Nations, the General Assembly in April 1993 approved the transfer to UNCTAD of a number of activities previously carried out by the former Centre on Transnational Corporations and the former Centre for Science and Technology The problems of the least developed countries and of Africa's economic recovery receive special attention in UNCTAD's work. The UNCTAD staff-part of the United Nations Secretariat-numbers about 450 and is headed by a Secretary-General.

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